# WHY SAFETY?

Presentation for the national OSHECCOM meeting

October 28, 2003

AEE-200, Employee Safety Division



## HIDDEN COSTS OF EMPLOYEE ACCIDENTS

- Hidden costs more than double the direct costs of accidents.
- Estimates of indirect costs range from 1 to 53 times the direct costs.
- Direct costs are just the tip of the iceberg.



# SAFETY PAYS !! 300 % RETURN ON INVESTMENT AND MORE !

- According to the American Society of Safety Engineers, the cost of preventing workrelated injuries and illnesses is far less than the cost of correcting them.
- For every \$1 invested in a safety program,
  \$4 to \$6 is saved in future expenses.



### SAFETY PROGRAM BASICS

- Safety culture
- Safe behaviors
- A system
- Measurements
- Safety as a value, not just a priority



#### HOW DO WE DO IT?

- Benchmark the program
- Emphasize senior management leadership
- Communicate the safety message
- Have a proactive hazard recognition program
- Analyze every mishap and design ways to prevent recurrence
- Ask for employee feedback
- Reward safe work practices



#### HOW CAN SENIOR MANAGERS HELP?

- Learn about work injuries & costs.
- Request that new injuries be reported to you.
- Support managers in using SMIS.
- Support your OSH POC.
- Mention worker safety at every meeting.
- Require safety training for all employees, appropriate to their work.